

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 EB-07 EUR-12 AID-05  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PC-01 IGA-02  
CU-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 L-03 /079 W  
-----071452Z 104145 /46

R 071220Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6592  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0021

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LT, US  
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH KING MOSHOESHOE II

REF: MASERU 0020

1. SUMMARY: AT THE CONCLUSION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY REPORTED  
REFTEL KING MOSHOESHOE MOTIONED ME TO SIT DOWN AND, WITH FORMIN  
AND DCM PRESENT, TOOK THE LEAD IN ENGAGING IN FREE RANGING  
DISCUSSION THAT LASTED SOME 20 MINUTES. SUBJECTS INCLUDED (A)  
EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND IMPORTANCE  
OF TRADITIONAL US "HUMANITARIAN" MOTIVATION UNDERLYING IT; (B)  
THE GREAT EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF VISITS BY OUTSIDERS TO SOUTHERN  
AFRICA WHICH HE ENCOURAGED AS A MEANS OF ACQUIRING PERSONAL UNDER-  
STANDING OF THE TRAVEL PROBLEMS CREATED BY LESOTHO'S NEIGHBOR; (C)  
SINCERE HOPE LESOTHO WOULD BECOME A CENTER FOR CONFERENCES SUCH  
AS RECENTLY CONCLUDED AAI MEETING; (D) STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT  
I TRAVEL INTO THE INTERIOR TO BETTER APPRECIATE LESOTHO'S  
ISOLATION AND (E) DESCRIPTION OF HIS OWN PLANS TO RETURN SOON TO  
UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN ENGLAND BUT EXPECTATION OF SPENDING SPRING  
VACATION HERE. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING AUDIENCE WITH HM KING MOSHOESHOE FOR PRESENTATION OF  
CREDENTIALS HE MOTIONED TO US TO TAKE SEATS AND, AS COFFEE WAS  
SERVED, REAFFIRMED IN PERSONAL TERMS THE SENTIMENTS OF HIS FORMAL  
REMARKS (REFTEL) IN RESPONSE TO MY STATEMENT. HIS FIRST COMMENT  
FOLLOWING OPENING AMENITIES WAS TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT THE US WOULD  
CONTINUE TO BE MOTIVATED IN ASSISTING SOUTHERN AFRICA BY THE GREAT  
TRADITIONAL IDEALS FOR WHICH THE US STANDS AND NOT SIMPLY BU

CONSIDERATION OF "PRACTICAL POLITICS". (HE NODDED AT THIS POINT TOWARD FORMIN MOLAPO AS IF TO INDICATE LATTER WAS EXAMPLE OF PRACTICAL POLITICIAN.) HM MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA OF SOVIET PRESIDENT PODGORNYY AND HIS HOPE THAT US AID WOULD CONTINUE TO REPRESENT "COMMITMENT" TO US IDEAS AND NOT REACTION TO SUCH A VISIT. HE FOLLOWED WITH EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR WORK OF PEACE CORPS AND HIS PLEASURE WITH REPORTS THAT NUMBER OF PCV'S IN LESOTHO WAS INCREASING THEREBY MAKING POSSIBLE ENHANCED PC CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT. IN REPLY I SAID PCV'S WERE IN VERY REAL SENSE WORKING FOR GOL AND THEIR FUTURE WOULD DEPEND IN NO SMALL DEGREE UPON CONTINUED COOPERATION.

3. HM EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED ABOUT THE AAI CONFERENCE. (HE HAD BEEN IN THE UK DURING THIS TIME.) HE HOPED WE COULD ASSIST IN PROMOTING LESOTHO AS A CONFERENCE CENTER WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON PARTICIPANTS THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF LEARNING HOW DIFFICULT THE SITUATION IS CREATED BY LESOTHO'S NEIGHBOR, SOUTH AFRICA. I COMMENTED THAT GOL HAD, BY ITS HOSPITALITY DURING AAI CONFERENCE, ASSISTED IN MAKING KNOWN LESOTHO'S CONFERENCE CAPABILITIES.

4. HM URGED THAT VISITORS, INCLUDING MYSELF, TRAVEL TO REMOTE REGIONS OF LESOTHO TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ISOLATION AND NEED FOR IMPROVED ROADS. HE SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED 48-HOUR TOUR TO MOKHOTLONG AND QACHA'S NEK TO PROVIDE IMPRESSION OF DIFFICULT MOUNTAINOUS AREAS AND NEED FOR ROAD LINKS. HE ENCOURAGED, WITH A SLY SMILE, USE OF LESOTHO'S TRADITIONAL FORM OF TRANSPORT, NAMELY THE HORSE.

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5. SPEAKING OF THE COMING YEAR, HM INDICATED THAT HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO ENGLAND TO RESUME HIS UNIVERSITY STUDIES EXPECTING TO BE BACK IN LESOTHO IN LATE MARCH OR APRIL FOR SPRING VACATION. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE OCCASION WOULD ARISE BEFORE HE DEPARTED TO CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION, A SENTIMENT I RECIPROCATED.

6. COMMENT: HM'S BEARING AND LANGUAGE REFLECTED HIGH DEGREE OF SELF-ASSURANCE AND NO SIGN OF BEING SERIOUSLY INHIBITED IN EXPRESSING HIMSELF, DESPITE THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE HERE OF BENIGN POLICE STATE DOMINATED BY PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN. HE CLEARLY SEES HIS ROLE AS CUSTODIAN OF IDEALS; HIS REFERENCE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS A MAN OF "PRACTICAL POLITICS", FOR EXAMPLE, SEEMED TO BE AN ASSERTION OF THE SUPERIORITY OF THE KING'S IDEALISM VIS-A-VIS POLITICIANS. INCIDENTALLY, FORMIN DID NOT UTTER A WORD DURING THE AUDIENCE -- A FACT WE INTERPRET NOT AS MARK OF RESPECT BUT RATHER REFLECTION OF HIS ROLE AS PM'S AGENT. ONE MEETING IS INSUFFICIENT BASIS FOR MAKING JUDGMENT, AS LONGER-TERM OBSERVERS HERE SAY HM HAS NOT BY ANY MEANS ABANDONED HOPE OF A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN FUTURE AND IS SIMPLY BIDDING HIS TIME DURING

PRESENT PERIOD OF PM-IMPOSED FRUSTRATION.  
NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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